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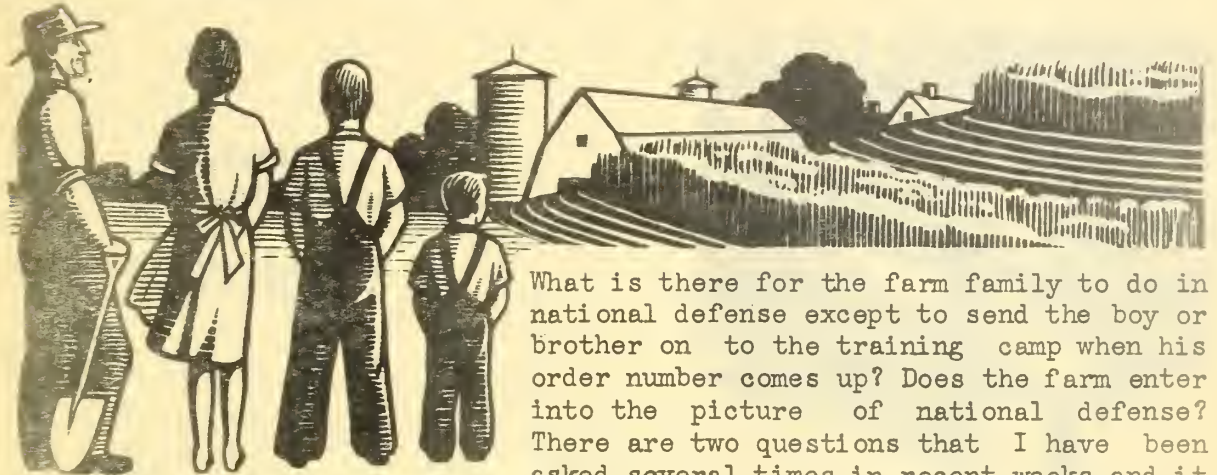


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# Carolina Farm News and Notes

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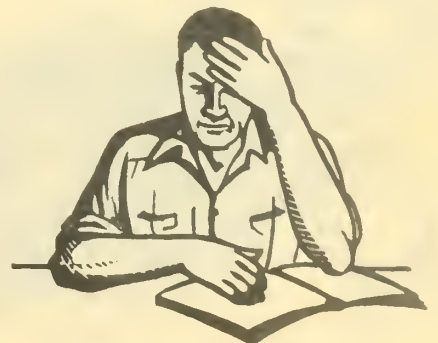
From The Charlotte Observer (Charlotte, N.C.) Monday, Nov. 25, 1940



What is there for the farm family to do in national defense except to send the boy or brother on to the training camp when his order number comes up? Does the farm enter into the picture of national defense? There are two questions that I have been asked several times in recent weeks and it is apparent that those who asked the questions have not thoughtfully examined the situation.

If we think that we, as farmers, can go along in just the same way that we have been going in past years then we are due for a jolt. We have not yet felt the impact of the war to any great extent, except for the loss of markets for certain export crops. But we are due to feel this effect. The farm family is just as important in national defense as is the family employed in a munitions or aircraft plant.

In the last World War, I had something to do with the campaign "Food Will Win the War" and to produce that food we tore up sod land that never should have been plowed; we cut down trees on land that never should have been cut over; we mined land that should never have been in cultivation, and finally, after it was all over, we were left with a headache that we are just getting over. In other words, we paused to take stock during the depression and we found ourselves with eroded, worn-out soil, that gave us diminished crop yields, lower farm incomes no matter how hard we tried to overcome the situation. Right now, we have a different situation and I think the agricultural conservation program is a God-send to us in that we can expand or contract our land-using operations as the national need arises. There is an abundance of food, and



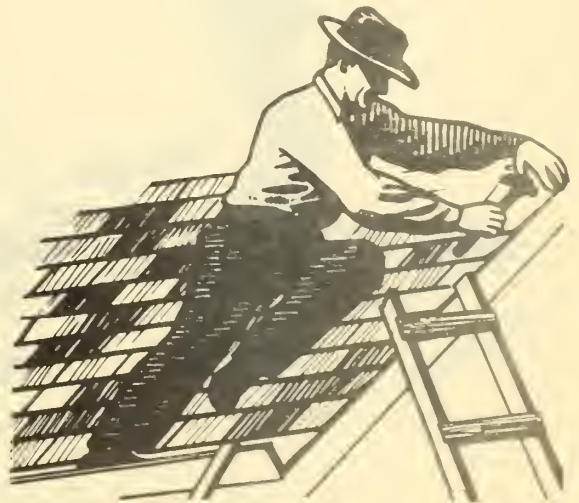


feedstuffs in every warehouse in the United States so our national leaders say. We have lots of fibre and other necessary farm supplies on hand for the present. No other nation in the world is so abundantly blessed.

So, let's go from there. What does the future hold? Would a victorious England have the money to buy our surpluses? Would a victorious Hitler allow us to sell our supplies? You can write your own answer to these questions but in my very humble opinion, it is time right now for us to get the rural house in order that we may be prepared for any eventuality. The first thing to do is of course to produce an adequate food supply on every farm. The food not needed could be stored and not only should we plan for 1941 in this food supply but keep on producing food and feed so that we shall have this whatever 1942, 1943, or 1944 may bring to us. That's the first and most important thing to do in our part of the national defense. We may not be able to get all the health-giving foods that we need later and it is well to build up reserves of sound health that may be drawn upon later to fight the effects of malnutrition.



Let's pay off all the old debts that we can right now because it takes money to prepare for defense or to wage war. As much as possible, I think we should adopt a pay-as-you-go plan and while we get all the equipment and supplies that we need to operate the farm in a first class manner and we should buy as little as possible on the credit. Now is the time, too, to make all the repairs that may be needed. Even the iron in nails may be needed later for cannon and tanks. Homes should be repaired and put into good condition; barns fixed for the comfort of our livestock; gates properly hung and fences put in good shape. Get the farm home equipped for the full use of the electrical current and add any needed farm equipment. If these are properly cared for, they will last a long time.







Perhaps the most important thing is to build up reserves of fertility in the land itself. Limestone and phosphates are available now for the growing of legumes, both winter and summer. No one can live at home entirely and be healthy unless the crops fed to livestock and vegetables or fruits consumed by the family come from fertile land. I believe the medical profession will agree with this. A fertile soil means a healthy, vigorous people and a poor soil means a poor people. Therefore, the farmer who wants to do his bit in national defense will get his farm land fertile. He will save it from washing and will conserve all its resources. We may have to mine it again later but if we fill it full of necessary fertility elements at this time, the soil will not be so completely exhausted perhaps as it was when we began to rebuild after World War No. 1. Livestock units also should be put into good shape for any eventuality and perhaps the easiest way to do this is to head all flocks and herds with purebred sires while we still have the money to buy them and the purebreds are available for such purposes.

Then, finally, it is well to make long-time business plans for the farm. This means a careful survey of the home farm, its needs and its possibilities. The mapping of a rotation where one is not now followed, the planning of pastures and sod land, the reforestation of certain others and other business planning should be included. The close of this present harvest season is the time for a stock-taking or inventory which will show what has been done; what needs to be done; and what is the present status of the farm. This may seem like a tedious job but it is well to be prepared and no better formula for meeting adverse circumstances has ever yet been devised. It is the policy of the United States to remain at peace but as every farm family well knows we are threatened at this time with forces of evil which would like to see our democratic institutions and our very existence overthrown by force of arms or by economic strangulation.

